

FISCAL NOTE

SB 188 - HB 166

February 7, 2007

SUMMARY OF BILL: Specifies that no court, appellate or otherwise, will have jurisdiction to overturn an order of termination of parental rights more than one year after the date of the original trial court's order of termination.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures – Not Significant

Assumptions:

- The Department of Children's Services (DCS) would not change existing policies in relation to the adoption of children; therefore, there would be no fiscal impact to the DCS.
- DCS attorneys file approximately 1,000 terminations of parental rights each year. Of those 1,000, approximately 50 are appealed to the Court of Appeals.
- In FY 2005, the Court of Appeals disposed of 66 terminations of parental rights cases. In FY 2006, the Court of Appeals disposed of 54 terminations of parental rights cases.
- Any increase in the caseload due to the reduced amount of time allowed to appeal a termination of parental rights order will not have a significant increase in state expenditures to the Court of Appeals.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James W. White".

James W. White, Executive Director